

[7 December, 2006]

RAJYASABHA

has been increased from, the current fiscal year, from Rs. 65 crores to Rs. 150 crores, has been accepted. All these developments were known to the people.

DR. P.C. ALEXANDER: Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister does not indicate year-wise allocation of assistance funds by the Ministry of External Affairs. Will he be kind enough to give us details whether every year the assistance has been on the increase or the trend has been on the decline? If it is the latter, can he explain why?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the allocation is not actually declining, it is increasing. But, sometimes, it may happen that in a particular year, the expenditure is not being made by the recipient Government. Sir, the year-wise break-up is: in 2001-02, it was Rs. 39.53 crores; next year, in 2002-03, it was Rs. 45.93 crores; next year/in 2003-04, it was Rs. 57.91 crores; in 2004-05, it was Rs. 59.75 crores; in 2005-06, it was Rs. 59.37 crores and in 2006-07, it is Rs. 119 crores approximately till 31st October, 2006.

MR. CHAIRMAN. Next Question No. 222. Shri Raj Mohinder Singh Majitha. Shri Ram Jethmalani. Next Question No. 223.

[The questioner(s) (Shri Raj Mohinder Singh Majitha and Shri Ram Jethmalani) were absent. For answer *vide* page 31 *infra*]

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, Question Nos. 222 and 230 are similar.

श्री सभापति : अब तो मैंने प्रश्न संख्या 223 ले लिया है।

Setting up of Atomic Energy Plant at Srikakulum

*223. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up an Atomic Energy Plant in Srikakulum district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh have accepted the proposal;

(d) whether it is a fact that the local population in this area are opposing the setting up of this Atomic Energy Plant; and

(e) if so, the measures Government propose to take to allay the fear of local public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Site Selection Committee constituted by the Government of India has requested Governments of all the coastal states in the country to offer suitable coastal sites for consideration. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed a site at Kowada in Srikakulam district. This site is being evaluated by the Site Selection Committee. However, no decision regarding setting up of nuclear power station has been taken.

(d) and (e) The evaluation of the sites by the Site Selection Committee is a preliminary step in the site selection process. Social Impact Assessment, evolving an acceptable package for rehabilitation of the affected persons and generating awareness in the local population about safety of the nuclear power stations are some of the issues, which are required to be addressed in the event a decision is taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Sir, the atomic power project proposed to be set up at Kowada village in Ranasthalam Mandal of Srikakulam district would lead to displacement of around one lakh people, a majority of them, that is, around 80 per cent, are poor fishermen living in 20-30 coastal villages. This would adversely affect their livelihood. Besides this, the project would also cause severe damage to the fragile eco system and flora and fauna of that region. Keeping in view the gravity of the problem and damage to the ecological system in that area, I, therefore, kindly request the Government not to set up the atomic power project in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, as I had said, in my reply, no final decision has been taken about setting up any power plant in Andhra

Pradesh. The concerns expressed by the Member would certainly be kept in view when the final decisions are taken about new sites.

SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Sir, it is understood that officials of the Department of Atomic Energy are actively pursuing the project and the State Government has also initiated action for acquiring the land for the proposed project. The State Government is making conflicting statements causing confusion among the public. People in that area are agitating against setting up of the project. Similar proposals in the past for setting up the atomic power plant in that area were strongly opposed by the local public and as a result, the proposals were shelved. I, therefore, reiterate that the Government should not consider setting up atomic power project in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, as I said, the Department of Atomic Energy of the Central Government requests the State Governments for possible sites in their States and similarly, a request has been sent in 2005 to all the coastal States to propose possible sites. Kovvada site is one of the sites proposed by the Andhra Pradesh Government. The Government of Gujarat has suggested some other site. The Government of Maharashtra had suggested a site at Jaitapur which has already been approved by the Government. But, no further site has been approved by the Government as yet. Only a review and some exploratory work is going on based on the suggestions of the Andhra Pradesh Government. No final decision about any power plant in Andhra Pradesh has been taken.

Allocation to Rajasthan under AUWSP

*224. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the overall urban water supply status/scenario in India, particularly in Rajasthan;

(b) the amount allocated by the Central Government to Rajasthan under Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) during the last three years and whether it has been allocated according to laid down yardstick;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved;